

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise I guess to oppose the amendment. I would have some comments, and Senator Hall is absolutely correct. The elderly credit is a complicated issue and I did try to look at some of the examples. It is also a small amount in the bill. I would rise and oppose the amendment because I am concerned that it is not a good-faith amendment, number one, because it was offered very late, handwritten. I hadn't seen it until I went up to the Clerk's desk. It seems strange that that would happen, especially when the Chairman of the Revenue Committee did vote for the committee amendments which kept that part of the bill intact, and suggest we take two other parts out. If he were to come up and strike one of the areas of the committee amendments that were defeated, or reinsert that, it would seem at least to make some more sense, but I have a hard time understanding why he is doing this. I do know that I don't believe the credit could be taken by people carrying high amounts of tax-free bonds outside the state because they are not tax deductible inside the state. So we are dealing with an issue of high amounts of Nebraska bonds that are exempt so that you could qualify for this area, and I have been led to believe by even members on this floor that to try to buy those, and there aren't any out there, or there aren't very many. In any event, the credit which possibly, possibly, carried to its maximum, and it appears to me that the credit could be as high as \$1,100 off of an income and no higher than that, if that were possible, it would be the maximum loophole available. It would affect very, very few people, if any, in the state and, likely, practically none. I don't see the issue other than...honestly, I see it as hassling the bill. If other people are writing a lot of handwritten amendments and just throwing them up on the desk, other people would get a little confused, maybe even a little upset. I have seen it happen before. I would hope you would reject the amendment, and if Senator Hall is serious about this, and does want to sit down with me, and with the Department of Revenue, and see how, exactly, this would be accomplished, how it could lead to a loophole, if you will, I would be more than happy to deal with him and try to take care of that because, obviously, the bill as it is presented is not to create loopholes. It is to give back taxes to people or reduce the tax rates to people, and in this particular case, especially the elderly and low income people, not to create a loophole. I would urge the rejection of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Crosby is announcing that